



# A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY NEWS LETTER



Volume I  
Number 3  
September, 1942

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## THE NEWS-LETTER

That this issue of the News-Letter appears somewhat later than expected can be blamed, like almost everything else nowadays, on the war. Our readers have shown praiseworthy patience, which we shall try to repay by the prompt distribution of the next issue. In the mean time, we remind our subscribers that contributions of news and queries are always welcome.

If we may coin a conceit, the function of this news-letter, like that of money, is to serve as a medium of exchange. But contributions to the News-Letter will yield a higher rate of interest than money can produce nowadays. One of our seventeenth century friends like Jack Cleveland could carry the metaphor a good deal farther; we trust, however, that the point requires no more elaboration.

## 1642-1942

Our concern with the grim events of 1942 probably accounts for the lack of references to this year as the tercentenary of 1642, a year of equally dismal portent. The forces set in motion by the events of 1642 have engaged a great deal of study by us as seventeenth century scholars; and not, it may be

hoped, without benefit.

If an Englishman of 1642 had been able to see fifteen years ahead, he would doubtless have been overwhelmed by the bloodshed and misery to come. The blood, sweat, and tears would have blinded his eyes from discerning any significance in the birth of a baby just christened Isaac Newton.

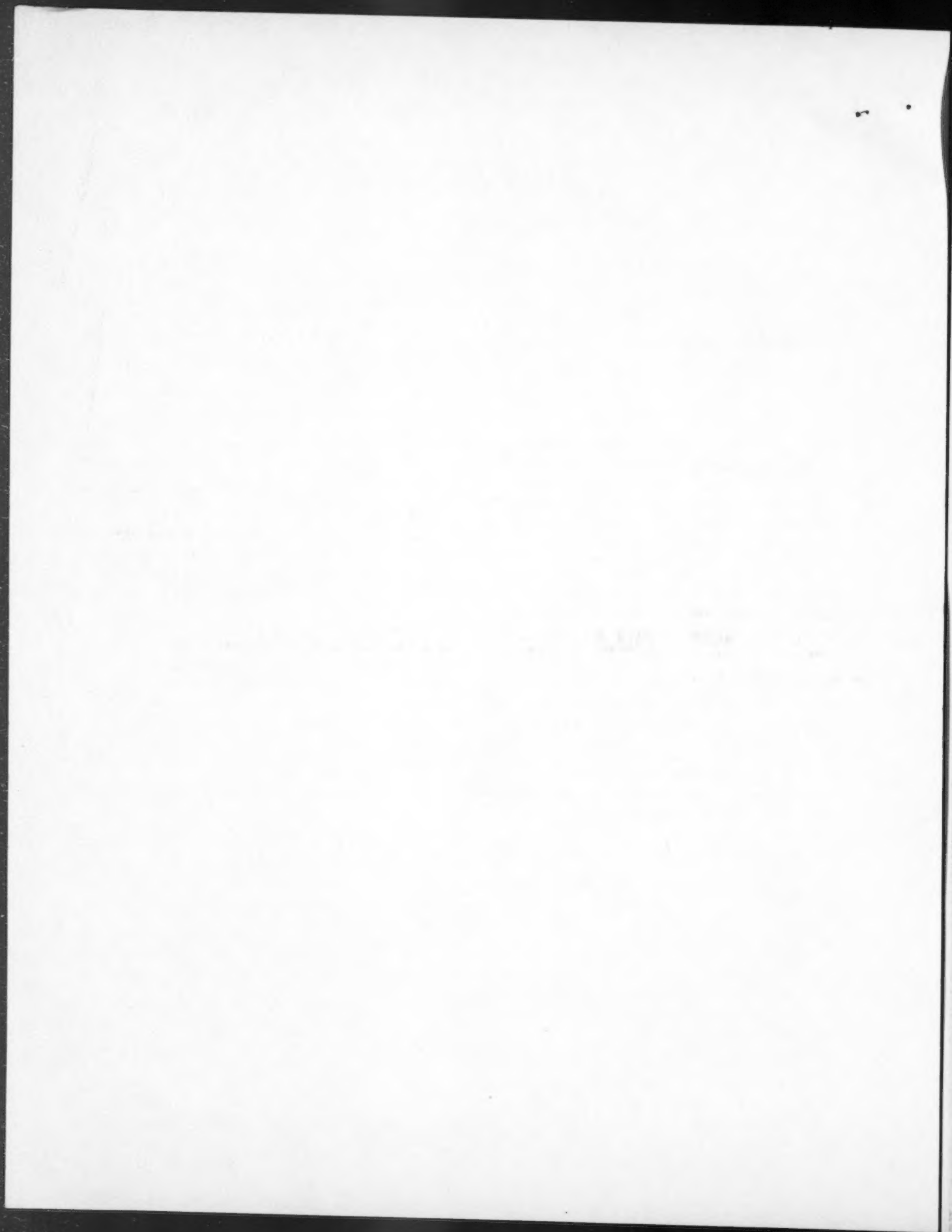
The study of history should have brought us the benefit of perspective in viewing our own world, as well as in viewing the England of 1642. Isaac Newtons are also being born in 1942, and the long view of three centuries provides evidence for faith in the future.

## NEWS FROM FRANCE

One of the most active scholars in the field of English literature in pre-war France was Pierre Legouis. In this he followed the lead of his illustrious father, Emile Legouis, but devoted most of his attention to seventeenth century literature, especially Dryden and Marvell.

A post card from him has recently been received by one of our editors, containing the following:

"So many and so great events have occurred since 1 Feb. 1939 that I do not remember whether



2.

I have answered your very interesting letter of that date.... During the fall of 1939 and until July 1940, I was serving in the French army. In fact the only work I did in our common line during the winter months (those of the "funny war") was a hasty review of Macdonald's bibliography of Dryden. It should have been printed in *Etudes Anglaises* and was actually sent off to the editor when the German offensive in Holland and Belgium had just started. Since then our periodical has not resumed its appearance.

"Rather accidentally I have been recalled from Dryden to a former flame of mine, John Donne. My friend, Prof. Liljgren, of Upsala University in Sweden, having asked for French contributions to an Eilert Ekwall miscellany, I sent him some very futile "Lexicographical Notes and Queries on Donne's Satires." I suppose they will come out before this year is over. I mention them only to show you that, being entirely cut off from Paris intellectually (and, moreover, publishing as regards our studies being at a standstill there) we have to fall back on such opportunities as other countries offer.

"P. Moraud's book on Milton (a thesis for the D. Litt. at Bordeaux) finally came before this University (Lyons) a few weeks before the war. Its title had been altered to De Comus a Satan, with a companion brochure on The Effects of his Political Life upon John Milton. Moraud, who had been a lecturer in one of your universities, intended to go back to the U. S. A. soon after the viva voce. But I have not heard of him since. He's rather a man of letters than a scholar, but he has talent, to

my mind.

"By the way, I have recently heard of the publication of a book on Marvell (by "two Girton women," as an Oxford friend informed me) and I was also to review it if... But these are the least consequences of our collapse."

This card was posted in November, 1941, in unoccupied France, and received in America six months later. It testifies that, despite the ruin of war, the spirit of scholarship can be kept alive if the will to do so persists.

#### ENGLISH PRINTING ON THE CONTINENT

One recent acquisition by the Yale Library possesses particular interest for seventeenth-century students. It is a collection of more than a hundred books printed on the continent in English between 1546 and 1700. Seventy-three of them bear seventeenth-century imprints, all but ten of which are before 1641.

Many of the volumes were printed by or for the English Catholic Colleges. Since the names of twenty different cities appear in the imprints, the books contain important evidence for the historian of printing.

The collection was formed by J. P. R. Lyle, well-known English bibliographer. Many of the books are not to be found in the British Museum or the Bodleian, so that if we count the thirty volumes in this category already owned by Yale, the collection is probably the most complete in existence.

#### BUNYAN DOCUMENTS

Among the numerous interesting manuscripts offered for sale in Quaritch's Catalogue 594 were (1-



tem 50) two lists of prisoners of the "County Goale" in Bedford, both lists containing the name of John Bunyan. They settle a question of some importance, namely whether Bunyan was in the county jail from 1668 to 1672, and not, as some biographers have suggested, in the Bridge (town) Prison. Manuscripts from other catalogues will be listed in the next issue.

### GHOSTS?

One of the longest lists of titles in Who's Who is found under the name of Montague Summers.

Nearly all Restoration scholars have had occasion to consult his books at one time or another, and students of earlier and later periods know him by reputation.

Gerhart S. Alleman (Wallingford, Pa.) has sent the following note on the subject:

"Some of the books listed by Summers in Who's Who are otherwise unknown to the world of scholarship. After searching through the Union Catalogue of the Library of Congress, the M. H. R. A. Annual Bibliography, and other bibliographical tools, I have been unable to find other traces of the following:

A Great Mistress of Romance, 1917.

Jane Austen: An Appreciation, 1919.

Architecture and the Gothic Novel, 1931.

J. K. Huysmans and Chartres, 1932.

Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu and his Houses, 1932.

Editions of Settle's Empress of Morocco and The Female

Prelate, 1933

The Days of Dryden, 1936.

The Black Mass, 1936.

"The editions of the two Settle plays pose an additional problem, for in Who's Who Summers dates them 1933, whereas in his Bibliography of the Restoration Drama he gave the date as 1935 for both plays.

"Were these volumes printed privately (very privately)? Are they perhaps yet in manuscript? Or can it be that they represent work still in gestation? Summers's preoccupation with magic may somehow be involved in the mystery, so that these volumes may be ghosts, known only to Summers himself. If they are indeed flesh and blood, many Restoration students would like to make their acquaintance."

### SOLUTION OF THE LITERARY PUZZLE

The literary detectives among our subscriber had little difficulty in identifying the poem to which the manuscript notes in the May issue belong. The earliest reply came from Marjorie Nicolson (Columbia), who wrote as follows:

"Naturally, as one of the greatest living detective fans, I had to try my hand at the puzzle. The notes are to Butler's Hudibras, Part I, Canto III.

"'Vitiligation' is a dead giveaway. That line should have been left out to make it nice and hard, for 'vitiligation' is a word the Knight was passionately, in love with, and never fail'd to use it, upon all possible occasions."

"I suppose Ye Ed might well reply to this criticism with the

rest of the quotation: 'and therefore to omit it, when it fell in the way, had argu'd too great a Neglect of his Learning, and Parts, though it means no more than a perverse Humor of Wrangling'".

Others who sent in correct solutions were Homer E. Woodbridge (Wesleyan), R. H. Griffith (Texas), R. F. Dixon (V. M. I.), Chester H. Cable (Chicago), Chester L. Shaver (Oberlin), Donald C. Dorian (N. J. C. for Women), Esmond S. de Beer (London), A. W. Craver (Miami), Homer Nearing (Perkiomen School), and Frederick L. Taft (Case).

The manuscript notes are written on the end papers of a copy of the first edition of Hudibras (1663) owned by the Yale Library. One solver suggested that they were either the original notes (or a derived copy) made by "a learned and worthy clergyman [who] after reading Hudibras with attention, had compiled a set of observations, with design to reprint the poem, and to subjoin his own remarks," spoken of by Dr. Ash in the preface to his 1793 edition of the poem. The majority of the solutions, however, recognized that the manuscript notes are definitely derived from the annotations in the 1674 and following editions. Other pages in the original make this fact abundantly clear.

No one suggested that the notes might be by Butler himself. Mr. Cable compared them with Butler's hand and found noticeable differences. R. H. Griffith dated the hand between 1674 and 1680; in the 1690's handwriting had changed slightly.

Only one solver, Mr. Cable, offered the same conclusion that the editor had reached when selecting the volumes to serve as a

puzzle. In Mr. Cable's words:

"The most probably explanation is that these are notes copied into the first edition from the 1674 edition by someone who wanted to bring his old copy up to date. The mystery of 'who did it' remains in the end still a mystery."

#### MORE PUZZLES?

The editors were pleased at the wide interest shown by subscribers in the Hudibras puzzle. They were somewhat perplexed, however, by the attitude of one writer who spoke of it as a "phony mystery, completely known to the editor." His complaint was that "the only good a reader would get out of it would be the fun of answering a conundrum, not the supplying of new knowledge to anybody."

In this issue, therefore, we are offering two puzzles, the Enigma reproduced on page six and a problem that has one of the editors completely stumped. He has been working on a manuscript copy of an attack on Milton's Defensio, dated about 1658. The author of the attack gave his name as "Ambiorix Ariovistus," for the title begins "Ambiorigis Ariovisti Annotationes," etc. In the margin opposite this part of the title another hand has identified the author by writing, "i. e. Henr. Erastii." Which one of Milton's contemporaries is here alluded to? Queries of a similar nature will be welcome.

#### S.T.C. AMERICAN CHECKLIST

Within a few months the University of Michigan Library will publish a Checklist of American Copies of S.T.C. Books. The work has been done with funds supplied by the Carnegie Corporation.

A preliminary list for checking purposes was issued in May, 1941. It consists of S.T.C. numbers followed by symbols representing copies in some twenty American libraries, based on their checked copies of the S.T.C. and reports to the Union Catalogue of the Library of Congress. Other reports have since been received from thirty more libraries, institutional and private. Some of the libraries having very large collections in this field also sent in additions and corrections to the preliminary list.

W. W. Bishop (Michigan), who is in charge of the work, states that about 18,000 S.T.C. numbers have been located in the survey. Numerous variant issues have also been reported, as well as some titles not listed in the S.T.C.

No attempt has been made to record Proclamations in the checklist, though some have been reported. The most serious gap appears to be in liturgical books; otherwise every important classification has been covered by the American checklist.

#### THE ENGLISH INSTITUTE

The English Institute, as its secretary Rudolf Kirk (Rutgers) reports, held its fourth session at Columbia University over the Labor Day week-end. In spite of the difficulties of transportation and of the many activities imposed on the potential membership by the war, all members registered, and the atmosphere of the session seemed to be as animated as at any previous meeting. The program included sections on "linguistic Aspects of Literary Theory," "Problems in Philosophical Criticism," "Interpretation in Biography," "Problems in Authenticity and Attribution," and two evening lectures on "Approaches to the Novel."

Although seventeenth-century scholars undoubtedly found some grist for their mills in all the discussions, only two sessions actually dealt with problems in our own field. The group which considered Authenticity and Attribution, directed by R. C. Bald (Cornell), included a valuable paper by Giles E. Dawson (Folger) on "The Authenticity of Written Material."

In this interesting paper Dawson made the first public announcement, beyond the walls of the Folger Shakespeare Library, of what many scholars believe to be a seventh Shakespeare autograph. This announcement, with the accompanying explanation, was brought in with utmost modesty as a further illustration of the methods and pitfalls of establishing manuscript authenticity, but it proved to be sensational enough to call forth articles the next morning in both the leading New York newspapers. Seventeenth-century students may be amused to know that the point which Dawson was illustrating by citing the methods used to identify this signature of the poet was completely omitted from the reporters' accounts. Only the Shakespearean illustration survived.

The other paper of particular interest to us was by Gerald E. Bentley (Chicago), "Authenticity and Attribution in the Jacobean and Caroline Drama." In the most interesting fashion Bentley discussed and summarized the relative value for the scholar of such well-known sources as the Stationers' Registers, the title-pages of quartos, the dramatic records of Sir Henry Herbert, and other contemporary materials. It is hoped that these papers will appear in the next volume of the English Institute Annual.



## Æ N I G M A.

**T**HE brightest beauty I, yet most obscur'd:  
 Honour'd and courted most, yet least endur'd.  
 Free of things, and yet the fastest bound:  
 Met every where by all, yet seldom found.  
 The Wise to me make their unwearied Court:  
 But I with Fools and Children freely sport.  
 No stoick life was sober e'er like mine:  
 And yet I mingle with full bowles of Wine.  
 Elder than Time, and yet a Virgin young,  
 Who fire the Heart, and charm the Ear and Tongue.  
 My Name by all is every where ador'd  
 In outward show, but in effect abhor'd.  
 The greatest Purity, and chafest Maid,  
 Of vulgar hands and eyes and tongues afraid.  
 Though most unmov'd, yet ranging every where;  
 Am always one, and yet in all appear.  
 A thousand Sons of mine my Chambers fill,  
 Yet I a pure unspotted Virgin still.  
 None can my person nor my station tell,  
 Though I in every place and being dwell.

### M. L. A. ANNUAL MEETING

The editors were informed on July 29 by Percy W. Long (New York University), Secretary of the Modern Language Association, that the annual meeting of the Association would be held in New York on December 29-31 as announced. The September issue of PLLA confirms this plan. Though the present News-Letter appears later than we had intended, one paragraph of the Secretary's letter is still pertinent:

"Of 1424 national conventions polled, 69% expect to meet as usual, even if travel is rationed; and of the remainder, 80% expect to hold regional meetings. Large distance mass travel is definitely discouraged by the Government, but would not occur to any considerable extent in a New York meeting this year."

The following statement about the meeting of the seventeenth-

century group has come to us from Rudolf Kirk (Kutgers), Secretary:

"The plans for the meeting are nearly complete. The general topic is MILTON, and three papers will consider separate phases of the poet's life and thought. The final details of the program should be ready to announce in the next number of the News-Letter."

### ASSOCIATION BOOKS

The following items are offered by Macggs Brothers, Ltd., in their Mercurius Britannicus, No. 74, for September, 1942:

60. Strozii Poetae Pater et Filius, Paris, 1530. Sir Francis Bacon's copy with his boar-crest on each cover.

70. Robert Boyle, Essays of the Strange Subtlety ... of Effluvioms, London, 1673. Presentation copy to Sir Isaac Newton, bearing a presentation inscription on the titlepage, possibly in the hand of Henry Oldenburg.

71. Robert Boyle, New Experiments and Observations touching Cold, London, 1665. Presentation copy with inscription on the flyleaf.

73. A Discourse of Fidelity. A seventeenth-century manuscript presented to Charles I and bound with his arms on each cover.

74. Isaac Walton and Charles Cotton, The Compleat Angler, Part II, London, 1676. Presentation copy from Charles Cotton.

75. John Webb, A Vindication of Stone-Heng Restored, London, 1665. Charles Cotton's copy with his signature on the flyleaf.

(to be continued)





